

## A Slice of Summer!

*Our guides were busy this summer, with travel, family, working innovative summer camps and professional development.....so busy, we're dedicating this issue to highlighting some of their accomplishments. We hope you'll enjoy learning more about the team that serves your children!*



**Master's Degree in  
Montessori Education  
and Leadership,  
Terriann VanDeventer,  
Early Childhood Guide**

Terriann has been an early childhood guide for 19 years at Undercroft. She is currently in her last semester of graduate school, pursuing a Master's Degree in Montessori Education and Leadership at St. Catherine's University, St. Paul, Minnesota. Over the summer, she worked to develop an action research for her master's thesis project, focused on developing self regulation through group games and activities in the early childhood classroom. Our students and school will be direct beneficiaries of this capstone project.

*It is not enough for  
the teacher to love  
the child. She must  
first love and  
understand the  
universe. She must  
prepare herself, and  
truly work at it.*

*-Dr. Maria Montessori*



**AMS Teacher Education Instructor  
Academy, Kate Lehman**

*Lower Elementary Guide*

This summer, Kate worked to complete a two-year certificate through the American Montessori Society Teacher Education Instructor Academy, a course of study for Montessori teacher education programs. Kate initially chose to participate in this program to strengthen her work training teachers at Tulsa Public Schools' new Montessori programs.

*(Continued)*

## REMINDERS

### September 29

Staff Professional Day  
No Classes

### October 3

Spirit Night—Chipotle, 5730 E. 41st St.  
4:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

### October 4

CBC Lunch & Social  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### October 6

Fall Festival  
5:30 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

### October 10

Board of Directors Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

### October 18

Parent/Guide Conferences  
No Classes  
Middle School Kids' Camp

### October 19-20

Fall Break  
School Closed

### November 1

CBC Lunch & Social  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### November 3

Parent/Guide Conferences  
No Classes  
Middle School Kids' Camp

### November 11

Journey to Discovery  
(for Parents)  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### November 16—21

Scholastic Book Fair

### November 21

Folks' Day  
Half Day of School (a.m. only)

### November 21 (p.m.) - 24

Thanksgiving Holiday  
School Closed

### MidSchool Math Certification,



**Donna Vandiver**  
Middle School Guide

Donna is participating in the first-ever MidSchool Math Certification Cohort

23-24 with other educators nationwide. The year-long course started with a full day of in-person training in August 2023, and will be

## A Slice of Summer! (continued)

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*(Continued from page 1)*

Kate, along with several Undercroft colleagues, including Barbara Stuart, Tricia Massey, Gretchen Sterba, Emily Murphy, and Shiloh Oliver, worked for Cross Timbers Montessori Training Program for the last several summers to develop a Montessori elementary teacher training program that has recently received AMS accreditation. Through this work, our guides are "engaged in and enriched by a vital task: preparing future generations of Montessori educators for classroom and administrative roles."



*Undercroft guides, Shiloh Oliver, Gretchen Sterba, Emily Murphy, Tricia Massey, Barbara Stuart and Kate Lehman, serve as teacher trainers for Tulsa Public Schools through Cross Timbers Montessori Teacher Training Program.*

### Handling Change—How to Build Resilience in Yourself and Your Students, Laura Faudree, presenter

*Middle School Guide*

*Laura developed and will be presenting this workshop at the 2024 annual American Montessori Society conference in Orlando, Florida*

Ever wonder what makes some people appear to move through life with ease? While it's easy to think their lives are trouble-free, the reality lies in their ability to show resilience. Their ability to endure difficulties, yet keep moving. How do we help our students get there? Ourselves? Together, we will identify resiliency building components of a Montessori middle school, our role as guides to inspire the students we serve, and what we can do to help students develop a habit of resilience.



### Creating a Brave Classroom, Gretchen Sterba

*Upper Elementary Guide*

Gretchen participated in this summer course offered by Britt Hawthorne, a Montessori trained classroom teacher, author, and anti bias educator. This course focused on four aspects of social justice standards of self love and identity, embracing differences, justice, and activism. She found the topics inspiring, and loved Britt's down-to-earth, compassionate and curious approach, which reflects what Gretchen strives for in her classroom. Gretchen completed the course with the sense that our community does a great job of touching on these four standards, and discovered opportunities to go a bit deeper.



### Deep Dive: The Elementary and Adolescent Class Meeting, Anita Hundley and Gretchen Sterba

*Upper Elementary Guide*

Over the past couple of years, we as a school have implemented a new format for class meetings. The goal is to increase student input in classroom management, leading to greater connection and cooperation. Taking the three-session summer course, "Deep Dive: The Elementary and Adolescent Class Meeting" by Chip DeLorenzo (live via Zoom), was an opportunity for Anita and Gretchen to reflect and improve on their practice in facilitating these meetings. In this course, they were grouped with other Montessori guides whose experiences mirrored what they experience with their own Undercroft students. Individually and in groups they developed and tested lessons based on new guidelines provided by the instructor. A sequence was provided for presenting lessons geared toward building skills to improve participation and communication within the class meeting (all of which, naturally, will impact participation and communication in all areas of the classroom). Anita and Gretchen are in the early weeks of presenting these lessons, and are enjoying the



## International Day of Peace at UMS

Each year, we gather the entire school community for a simple celebration of the International Day of Peace. This year our students led by our wonderful Ms. Annie have been working so hard on an art project to celebrate the day! Ms. Annie envisions a school-wide 'sock hand-holding moment' and has been talking to students about using the socks to 'make new friends' and connections throughout the day.

# COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE

## CBC Co-Chairs

**Becca Povlock, Erin Rich & Laura Thomas**

***Becca.Povlock@Undercroft.org, Erin.Rich@Undercroft.org, Laura.Thomas@Undercroft.org***

### CBC Meetings

Join the CBC for monthly meetings! Meetings are the first Wednesday of each month from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. We meet to discuss upcoming events, answer questions, enjoy some laughs and community fellowship. See your Weekly Reminders email for instructions on joining the Zoom.

### Spirit Nights

Support Undercroft while you dine or shop! Our first two Spirit Nights of the year give back to our school when you buy dinner for your family — including carryout or curbside! Check *Weekly Reminders* and *Facebook* for more information.

- October 3, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m., dinner at **Chipotle**, 5730 E. 41st St.
- November 9, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., shopping night at **Kiddlestix**, 3815 S. Harvard Ave.

## New Upper El Summer Camps

This summer, upper elementary students explored Tulsa, with trips to public pools, thrift stores, bookstores, grocery stores, farms, Tulsa SPCA, libraries, and even the Port of Catoosa. Gretchen Sterba, the guide adventuring along with them, was impressed throughout by their grace and courtesy, resilience, excitement, and sense of adventure. The group mapped out their trips, figuring out both the fastest and most scenic routes for their explorations, and experienced public transportation. They engaged in lots of community service along the way, and by the end of the 5 week session, students created a slideshow of their adventures; a great way to reflect on the summer session!



### Summer Pilot—Change Makers

This summer, Annie Ferris and Gretchen Sterba co-taught a summer session focused on being part of a community — in our school, neighborhood, and the city of Tulsa. Both lower el and upper el students worked together and discussed aspects of community that are important to them: pets and animals, education, the elderly, homelessness, and refugees to name a few. The students' creativity, compassion, and attention to detail proved that our amazing students already have the seeds of compassion and service within. This camp complements the upper elementary curriculum of community service during the school year, through monthly service for Food on the Move and Oxley.

## Welcome to the Team!

### Joe Canaan—Facilities Coordinator

Joe was born in California and has lived in Tulsa for 45 years. He has a background in residential construction, having owned C & M construction. He has been married for 30 years with a daughter and twin boys all graduated from college. In his free time Joe enjoys gardening and watching college football.

### Ashley Long—Middle School Guide Intern

Ashley graduated from OSU with a Bachelor's degree and NSU with a Master's degree. She currently resides in Tulsa with her fiancé and their three children. This is Ashley's 8th year teaching, 6th in middle school. She loves all things science, and as a history buff, is enjoying teaching both Natural and Social World this year!

### Gretchen Mullen—Early Childhood Aftercare

Gretchen is a former UMS upper elementary guide, and has returned to Undercroft in her retirement years for just a few happy hours each day.

### Haley Roman—PE Specialist

Haley is a certified group fitness instructor and youth exercise specialist. She started as a group exercise instructor in 2003 while earning a Bachelor's of Science in Electrical Engineering at Oklahoma State University. With a passion for movement and serving the community, Haley joined Undercroft in 2023 as the Interim Physical Education Specialist. Haley has two sons attending Undercroft in early childhood.

### Margo Smith—Early Childhood Aftercare

Margo is a former Undercroft student who loves the Montessori method of teaching. She was a nanny for many years. Margo enjoys volunteering with local cat rescues and cat fostering.

### Loren Westergaard—Administrative Assistant

Loren has a background in marketing and advertising. She grew up in Tulsa and earned her bachelors degree from TU. She joined Undercroft for the 2022-2023 school year as a long-term substitute in Middle School. She is excited to be part of the administrative team! Loren has three children attending Undercroft; two in lower elementary and one in early childhood.

## A Big Thank You to All of Our Campus Beautification Volunteers!

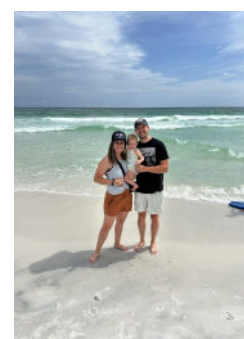
Over ten families came on Saturday morning to help us clean up our gardens, pruning, weeding, and hauling mulch. We made great progress, thanks to our hard working and generous community!



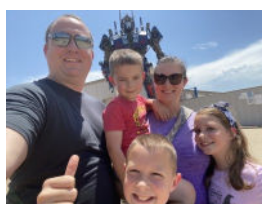
Ms. Massey in Costa Rica



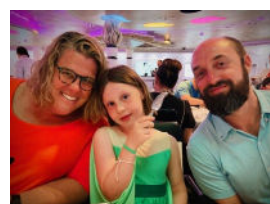
Ms. Donna on the Oregon Coast



Ms. Emily at Santa Rosa Beach



Ms. Loren in Stillwater



Ms. Kate on a Disney Cruise



Ms. Laura in Los Angeles

# Loving Learning



## ADMINISTRATION

**Sydney Atchison**  
Business Officer

**Joe Canaan**  
Facilities Coordinator

**Nancy Davis**  
Head of School

**Mike Noviski**  
Facilities Assistant

**Shannon Rau**  
Bookkeeper

**Brigid Vance**  
Development Director

**Loren Westergaard**  
Administrative Assistant

**Lesley Wilkin**  
Admissions Coordinator

## UNDERCROFT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**David Daugherty**  
**Scott Ferris**  
**Jackie Griffin**  
**Evie Houston**  
**Zuri Jones**  
**Shai Kaiser**  
**Barrie Lamberton**  
**Jogi Makhani**  
**Alison Meeks**  
**Tess Merrifield**  
**Melissa Moran**  
**Brett Palmer**  
**Becca Povlock**  
**Erin Rich**  
**Katie Sachse**  
**Heidi Shadid**  
**Dave Sherry**  
**Robert Thomas**

Facilities / Finance / Nominating  
Crisis Response Team / Marketing / Nominating  
CBC / Crisis Response Team / Marketing / Policy / TapesTree  
CBC / Funds Development / fUNDERaiser / Marketing  
Capital Campaign / fUNDERaiser / \*Honey Fest / Marketing / TapesTree  
Funds Development / fUNDERaiser / Marketing  
CBC / Funds Development / fUNDERaiser / Marketing  
**Treasurer** / Crisis Response Team / \*Finance / Nominating / Policy  
Finance / Funds Development / fUNDERaiser  
Crisis Response Team / \*Nominating / Policy / TapesTree  
Finance  
Crisis Response Team / Cyber-Security / \*Facilities / Policy  
CBC Co-Chair / Funds Development / fUNDERaiser  
CBC Co-Chair / Crisis Response Team / Funds Development / fUNDERaiser  
CBC / Cyber-Security / \*Marketing / Policy  
Crisis Response Team / Facilities / Nominating / \*Policy / \*TapesTree  
**Secretary** / Crisis Response Team  
**President** / \*Capital Campaign / CBC / \*Crisis Response Team / Cyber-Security / Facilities / Finance / \*Funds Development / \*fUNDERaiser / Marketing / Nominating / \*TapesTree / \*Policy